ADDRESS AND
PRESENTATION

TO

DR. HENRY SCADDING

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ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION,

JUNE 30TH, 1884.

[During the proceedings of the first day of the Toronto Semi-Centennial Celebration, June 30th, 1884, the following Address and Presentation took place in the open-air amphitheatre of the Exhibition Park. After the arrival of the long procession, which with great "pomp and circumstance" of bands, banners and elaborate allegorical and historical tableaux composed of living figures, had just perambulated the chief thoroughfares of the city, a meeting was organized in the amphitheatre under the presidency of the Mayor. The proceedings were opened by an appropriate address from His Worship. A speech followed from Mr. McMurrich, Chairman of the Semi-Centennial Committee of the citizens and chief original promoter of the Semi-Centennial Celebration. Dr. Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, then delivered the oration of the day. The Mayor of Philadelphia being present offered his congratulations to the people of Toronto on the prosperity of their city. At the close of these proceedings Mr. Rennie, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society of Pioneers, came forward on the stand in front of the amphitheatre, at the request of the Mayor and the Chairman of the Semi-Centennial Committee, and read the following address to the President of that Society, in the course of which the medal referred to in the address was handed to the President by Mr. Lea, Chairman of the Standing Committee, and Mr. Doel, Treasurer of the Society. The reply given below was then made by the President. It should be added that the object for which the Society of Pioneers exists is the conservation of the early Local History of Toronto and the surrounding County of York as originally defined, and that a conspicuous place had been assigned to this Society in the great commemorative procession which had been so happily conceived and so successfully carried into effect, and brought to such an appropriate close by the gathering in the amphitheatre.]

ADDRESS

TO THE REV. HENRY SCADDING, D.D.

President of the York Pioneer Society:

We, the members of the York Pioneers' Society, desire to express to you our hearty appreciation of your literary services in preserving the memories and acts of the early settlers of York in the volume entitled "TORONTO OF OLD," and also for the interest you have taken in our Society. The valuable work you have so ably edited, describing minutely the characteristics of the locality and inhabitants of York from its first settlement, is deserving of the high position to

which it has attained as an authoiity on the earlier history of York and Toronto.

We would also congratulate you upon the success of our Society during the four years you have occupied the Presidential Chair, which success is in a great measure due to your untiring energy and the interest you have exhibited in the affairs of the Society.

We beg your acceptance of the accompanying Medal, as an expression, though inadequate, of the high esteem in which you are held by the members of the Society, and as an acknowledgment of the services you have rendered in permanently recording, through your valuable work, the history of the early settlement of this city.

Wishing you, dear sir, many years of happiness, we subscribe ourselves in behalf of the Society, Wm. Lea, Chairman of Committee; W. A. Doel, Treasurer; Robert Playter, Secretary.

Toronto, 30th June, 1884.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

My Dear Friends :—It is a great pleasure to me to receive from you on this occasion such a kind recognition of my services as your President and Historiographer. I am sure had it not been for the untiring labour and close attention of a large number of very active members of our Society, alike in the past years of its existence and at the present time, it would never have held the position which it does to-day; and had it not been for your constant co-operation, help and encouragement, I should never have been able to gather together facts relating to "Toronto of Old" to the extent I have. It would have been a pity had the fine example of energy, courage, honest-heartedness and other sterling virtues set by so many of our predecessors in these parts been lost, and lost it would have been in great measure had a chronicler not soon appeared. It seems to have become my mission in these latter days to undertake this office. Its duties have been with me a labor of love, and if by your aid in the several volumes which are associated with my name I have helped to preserve the memory of Canadian worthies, deserving to be remembered, and to render our Association a working "Local History Society" for

Toronto and the ancient County of York generally, I deem myself sufficiently rewarded, and I am thankful. And in connection with this aspect of our Society, let me say that the homely cabins erected by us some time back in these grounds have done and are still doing good service; the relics of the old French Fort, which we guard so carefully close by, have done and are still doing good service; and in no slight degree, too, let me add, the tableaux which we and the Semi-Centennial Committee have displayed in the pageant through the streets this day, have also done and will still do good service, inasmuch as all these objects go to furnish a zero-mark, so to speak, by which any one who cares to do so may gauge our rise in the scale of civilization since 1794.

The beautiful silver medal which you have handed to me with this address I shall prize very highly, on account of the inscription which you have so thoughtfully had engraven upon its edge. As an amateur numismatist I shall have a particular gratification in placing it in my Cabinet, and I shall show it hereafter with pride, not only on personal grounds but also as being in this state a unique medal, adding much to the intrinsic value of a Collection which I hope at a future time to deposit in a public Institution.

[The address was magnificently engrossed in bold Gothic characters on vellum, with capitals in gold and vermillion, and surrounded by a framework of arabesques in various colors on a gold ground, by Mr. R. M. Williams, illuminator, Toronto. At the head of the address is a drawing in colors of a Canadian Pioneer's cottage. The medal which was executed by an excellent artist in England, is two inches in diameter, and shows on the obverse the President's head in profile to the left. The reverse has the inscription "TORONTO OF OLD, FINISHED JUNE 4TH, 1873," surrounded by a civic wreath of oak leaves. On the edge is engraved, "Presented by the York Pioneers, June 30, 1884." By communicating with Mr. Robert Playter, Secretary of the Society of Pioneers, copies of the medal in fine bronze are procurable.]

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